

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, applicants request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection and now allow the claims.

The independent claims have been amended to recite fatty acid esters of beta sitosterol, beta sitostanol, campesterol, campestanol, stigmasterol, stigmastanol and mixtures thereof as creaminess enhancers. The amendment is supported at page 9, lines 16-19.

In response to the informalities noted by the Office, the "preferred" limitations have been cancelled without prejudice and presented in new dependent claims.

Although Rogers et al. do talk of smoothness at the end of the first paragraph of column 10, the Office points to no teaching of the use of specific plant sterol esters as creaminess enhancers nor to any reason why creaminess enhancement would inevitably be present (inherent). Rogers et al. relates to micro milling plant sterols and emulsifiers to produce a dispersion which can be incorporated into full fat, reduced fat, low fat and fat free and triglyceride free food products. The micromilled plant sterol composition allow incorporation of plant sterols in food while avoiding the grittiness that arises in use of conventional plant sterol compounds.

Similarly, the Office points to no teaching by Traska et al of the use of specific plant sterol esters as creaminess enhancers nor to any reason why creaminess enhancement would be inevitable. Traska is directed to the use of phytosterols to

impart structure to water and fat continuous spreads. Indeed, Traska focuses on use of unesterified sterols (column 5 lines 53-55).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Applicants note that the Office Action was sent to Applicants' attorneys' previous address. The current address for Customer No. 00201 is:

Unilever Intellectual Property Group
700 Sylvan Avenue, Bldg. C2 South
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632-3100

It would be appreciated if the Office would correct its records.

Respectfully submitted,



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